

Why My Dad/Mom is a Hero

My dad is a hero, a real hero; not some fake, fictitious, or fantasy hero. Why? Maybe it is because he spent his whole life dedicated to defending our country. Perhaps because he has gone to places most people only see in nightmares and would never actually choose to venture, simply to help the oppressed and suffering. Then again, it might be because he has given everything in his life to take care of me, my brother, and my sister and loves us unconditionally. My dad is a hero because he is a real person who struggles everyday to make a difference. He can not fly. He has no special attributes that allow him to walk through fire, ice, earth, or water. Bullets will not bounce off him; he has had those shot at him and was frightened like all the other men who were with him.

But my dad is a real hero. Real heroes are those that brave the hardships of every day life with courage and integrity. They have no super powers, super suits, or super names; they are just ordinary men and women who choose a life of selfless sacrifice serving others. A life dedicated to serving their God, children, families, friends, country and those in need simply because it is the right thing to do. They have a code of ethics and beliefs that they will not abandon, will not compromise, and will not forget because of convenience or fear.

My dad is a hero because he wants what is best for me and would sacrifice everything, even his life, to see that I and my siblings were happy. As I prepared to go to college my community hosted a senior's dinner. At the dinner all the parents were asked to write three pieces of advice on a piece of paper and place it in a bowl. Each paper was read and the seniors had to guess which advice was from their parents. I was amazed at how few of the seniors knew what their parents had written. When they read my dad's advice I knew instantly. It was not new, he had told me these things all my life; they were the cornerstone of his zeal for serving and living. He wrote:

"There are only three things you need in life; God, a good friend, and a great spouse. Find the first and he shall grant you the other two."

"It is better to live one day as a Lion than a thousand as a lamb."

"Nobody will ever blame you for trying and failing, they will blame you for failing to try."

My dad has taken me all over the world; scuba diving to lost sunken ships, skiing the high Alps, and climbing many a mountain. He has taught me to have a thirst for life, love, and service. He never did this with any super powers... just a lot of super love.

That is why my dad is a hero.